

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on April 11, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

By means of the present amendment, the claims have been amended for non-statutory reasons. The claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the information disclosure statement (IDS) filed October 13, 2005 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2) for not supplying a copy of DE 10220510 and DE 10136474, which have been placed in the file without consideration. Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting this discrepancy. In response, an IDS is being concurrently filed that lists the following two U.S. Patent references which are the counterparts of the two German patents:

US 2005/0077841 is the counterpart of DE 10220510; and

US 6,779,896 is the counterpart of DE 10136474.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to remove the alleged informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.


In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 3 and 17 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice, and independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 3. Further, claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form. In addition, new independent claims 18 and 20 are added that also include the features of allowable claims 3 and 17, respectively.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 17-18 and 20 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 4-16 and 19 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1.

in addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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